Amendments to the Specification.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 10-26, as shown below by deleting the material indicated by strikethrough:

The most difficult problem with adenovirus vectors is their inability to sustain long-term transgene expression, secondary to ~~hose~~ immune responses that eliminate virally transduced cells in immune-competent animals. Gilgenkrantz *et al.*, *Hum. Gene Ther.* **6**:1265-1274 (1995); Yang *et al.*, *J. Virol.* **69**:2004-2015 (1995); Yang *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **91**:4407-4411 (1994); Yang *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* **155**: 2565-2570 (1995). While immune responses have been demonstrated against the transgene-encoded protein product (Tripathy *et al.*, *Nat. Med.* **2**; 545-550 (1996)), it has also been demonstrated that adenovirus vector epitopes are major factors in triggering the host immune response. Gilgenkrantz *et al.*, *Hum. Gene Ther.* **6**:1265-1274 (1995); Yang *et al.*, *J. Virol.* **70**: 7209-7212 (1996). It has been repeatedly demonstrated that transgene such as the bacterial β-galactosidase gene are highly immunogenic when transduced by adenovirus vectors, in contrast to other delivery systems (*e.g.*, direct DNA injection or adeno-associated virus administration), where an immune response against the immunogenic transgene is lacking and transgene expression persists. Wolff *et al.*, *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **1**:363-369 (1992); Xiao *et al.*, *J. Virol.* **70**:8098-8108 (1996).